

PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE AND THE SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT FOR PRINCIPALS

Introduction

Applicants requesting initial teaching licensure are required to achieve passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education **unless** exemption on the basis of prior out-of-state teaching experience is applicable. Applicants seeking the Technical Professional License or Pupil Personnel Services License are not required to complete the professional teacher's assessment. If an individual becomes employed by a **Virginia school division or nonpublic school** in a contractual teaching position, has met the endorsement (teaching area) requirements, and has not satisfied the professional teacher's assessments, a **three-year, nonrenewable** provisional license may be issued upon the request of the Virginia employing educational agency. [Please note that the time to complete testing requirements under a provisional license is subject to change as the licensure regulations are proposed to revise the period from three years to one year from the contractual date of employment.]

Exemption Criteria

Individuals who have completed a minimum of two years of full-time, successful teaching experience in an accredited public or nonpublic school (kindergarten through grade 12) in a state other than Virginia are exempted from assessment requirements (VCLA, Praxis II, and VRA). Experience as a substitute teacher or as a teacher's aide is not acceptable experience to meet this exemption. [Please note that this experience exemption is subject to change as the licensure regulations have been proposed to revise the experience exemption.]

Technical Amendment to the Licensure Regulations: Individuals who present a valid out-of-state teaching license in effect at the time of application for an initial license are exempted from the Praxis I requirement. [This does not apply to the VCLA.] Individuals who hold out-of-state licenses, please refer to the section "Conditions for Licensure by Reciprocity" in Regulatory Supts. Memo No. 12, dated September 23, 2005, regarding possible exemption from Praxis I on the following Web site: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2005/reg012.html>.

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals whose applications for initial licenses and passing scores for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) are received in the Office of Licensure, Department of Education, **on or before December 31, 2006**, will not be required to take and pass the VCLA. All other tests (Praxis II and VRA, if applicable) will be required.

Assessments Required

The prescribed tests for Virginia for initial licensure are as follows:

ACADEMIC SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Praxis I (until December 31, 2005) **PLEASE NOTE:** Individuals whose applications for initial licenses and passing scores for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) are received in the Office of Licensure, Department of Education, **on or before December 31, 2006**, will not be required to take and pass the VCLA. All other tests (Praxis II and VRA, if applicable) will be required.

Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment-VCLA (effective January 1, 2006)

CONTENT ASSESSMENT

Praxis II

VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT, if applicable. This test is required for individuals seeking an endorsement as a reading specialist or individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in any of the following endorsements (teaching areas): Early/Primary preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, Special Education-Mental Retardation, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments.

PRAXIS I (effective until December 31, 2005, as a licensure assessment)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Individuals whose applications for initial licenses and passing scores for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) are received in the Office of Licensure, Department of Education, **on or before December 31, 2006**, will not be required to take and pass the VCLA. All other tests (Praxis II and VRA, if applicable) will be required. Individuals who hold out-of-state licenses, please refer to the section "Conditions for Licensure by Reciprocity" in Regulatory Supts. Memo No. 12, dated September 23, 2005, regarding possible exemption from Praxis I on the following Web site: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2005/reg012.html>.

[Praxis I will continue to be the prescribed assessment for entry into a Virginia approved teacher preparation program.]

Individuals may meet the Praxis I assessment requirement by achieving the scores established by the Board of Education for each of the three Praxis I tests—mathematics, reading, and writing--or by achieving the established composite scores on all three tests. Combining PPST and CBT scores to achieve the composite will **not** be accepted. A minimum score on each of the tests is not required provided the composite score is achieved. **[The SAT and ACT have been approved as alternate assessments for Praxis I. Refer to page 3 for the equivalent SAT and ACT scores.]** Please review the information on page 2 of this document regarding the change from Praxis I to the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment on January 1, 2006.

Pre-Professional Skills Test (Paper/pencil PPST)			Pre-Professional Skills Test (Computerized-PPST)*		
<u>PRAXIS I</u> (Paper/pencil)	<u>TEST</u> <u>CODE</u>	<u>PASSING</u> <u>SCORES</u>	<u>PRAXIS I</u> <u>C-PPST</u>	<u>TEST</u> <u>CODE</u>	<u>PASSING</u> <u>SCORES</u>
Mathematics	10730	178	Mathematics	5730	178
Reading	10710	178	Reading	5710	178
Writing	20720	<u>176</u>	Writing	5720	<u>176</u>
PPST Composite Score		532	C-PPST Composite Score		532

Computer-Based Test

(This test was discontinued December 31, 2001; however, scores will continue to be accepted.)

<u>PRAXIS I</u> <u>CBT(computer-based)</u>	<u>TEST</u> <u>CODE</u>	<u>PASSING</u> <u>SCORES</u>
Mathematics	10731	323
Reading	10711	326
Writing	20721	<u>324</u>
CBT Composite Score		973

***To schedule an appointment for a Computerized PPST test, call the test center where you wish to take the test or call Prometric®, a division of Thomson Learning, Candidate Services, at 800-853-6773. Test takers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can call TTY 800-529-3590. The paper-pencil PPST test administration is scheduled on designated days. Please refer to the Praxis Series Registration Bulletin for detailed information.**

VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (effective January 1, 2006)

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment will be required for initial licensure effective January 1, 2006, unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Refer to the following Web site for more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration: www.vcla.nesinc.com.

Individuals who graduate from Virginia approved programs **prior to December 31, 2006**, and who have taken and passed the Praxis I (ACT or SAT); Praxis II; and the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA), if applicable, will not be required to take and pass the *Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment™* (VCLA). **Individuals whose applications for initial licenses and passing scores for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) are received in the Office of Licensure, Department of Education, on or before December 31, 2006, will not be required to take and pass the VCLA. All other tests (Praxis II and VRA, if applicable) will be required.**

On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The cut scores for the VCLA are as follows:

Writing Sub Test:	235
Reading Sub Test:	235
Composite Score:	470

PRAXIS II: SPECIALTY AREA TESTS

The following tests are required for the endorsement (teaching specialty) areas indicated. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which initial licensure is granted. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, the policy for testing individuals with disabilities, etc., please refer to the Web site, www.ets.org, or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800-772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin or write to THE PRAXIS SERIES, ETS, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

<u>SPECIALTY AREA TEST</u>	<u>TEST CODE</u>	<u>PASSING SCORES</u>	<u>ENDORSEMENT AREA</u>
Art: Content Knowledge	(0133)	159	Art Education
Biology: Content Knowledge	(0235)	155	Biology
Business Education	(0100)	590	Business Education
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	(0245)	153	Chemistry
Earth Science: Content Knowledge	(0571)	156	Earth Science
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	(0014)	143	PreK-3; PreK-6
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	(0041)	172	English
French: Content Knowledge	(0173)	169	French
German: Content Knowledge	(0181)	162	German
Family and Consumer Sciences	(0120)	550	Work and Family Studies
Health and Physical Education PreK-12	(0856)	151	Health and Physical Education
Marketing Education	(0560)	570	Marketing Education
Mathematics: Content Knowledge Middle Education (see below)	(0061)	147	Mathematics
Music: Content Knowledge	(0113)	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Instrumental
Physics: Content Knowledge	(0265)	147	Physics
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	(0081)	161	History and Social Science
Spanish: Content Knowledge	(0191)	161	Spanish
Technology Education	(0050)	610	Technology Education

Middle Education

Individuals seeking an initial license with a middle education 6-8 endorsement with two areas of concentration must take the two corresponding Praxis II middle school assessments.

<u>Middle School English/ Language Arts (0049)</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>	<u>Middle School Science (0439)</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>
Middle School Mathematics (0069)	163	Middle School Social Studies (0089)	160

VIRGINIA READING ASSESSMENT (VRA)

Individuals seeking initial licensure with endorsements in the following areas must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Elementary and Special Education Teachers (Test Code 001):

**Early/Primary prek-3
Elementary Education prek-6
Special Education-Emotional Disturbances
Special Education-Learning Disabilities**

**Special Education-Mental Retardation
Special Education-Hearing Impairments
Special Education-Visual Impairments**

Individuals seeking an endorsement as a **Reading Specialist** must take the Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (Test Code 002).

The VRA became a requirement July 1, 2004. Individuals who take the VRA after July 1, 2006, will be required to meet a passing score established by the Virginia Board of Education. The Board of Education established cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for elementary and special education teachers at 235 and for reading specialists at 245, effective July 1, 2006. For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, etc., please visit the Web site, www.vra.nesinc.com.

SCHOOL LEADERS LICENSURE ASSESSMENT (SLLA)

Effective July 1, 2005, the Board of Education approved the use of the SLLA for individuals who are seeking an endorsement authorizing them to serve as principals and assistant principals. Individuals seeking an administration and supervision endorsement who are interested in serving as central office instructional personnel are not required to take and pass the SLLA. Should those individuals later agree to accept a position as a principal or an assistant principal, they will then be subject to the SLLA requirement. The cut-score for the SLLA is 165.

For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, etc. please visit the following Educational Testing Services Web site: www.ets.org/sls. A Questions and Answers document on the SLLA is available at the following Web site: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/teachereducation/slla/faq.pdf>

SUBSTITUTE TESTS FOR PRAXIS I

The Praxis I assessment was discontinued as an initial licensure test on December 31, 2005. PLEASE NOTE: Individuals whose applications for initial licenses and passing scores for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) or passing scores on the substitute tests (SAT or ACT) are received in the Office of Licensure, Department of Education, on or before December 31, 2006, will not be required to take and pass the VCLA. All other tests (Praxis II and VRA, if applicable) will be required.

SAT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I

On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT® as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) required for initial licensure. The board approved the following scores:

SAT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995 -- a score of **1000** with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests;

SAT Taken After April 1, 1995 -- a score of **1100** with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I.

Please note that the SAT® was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

ACT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I

On September 22, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the ACT as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) required for initial licensure. The board approved the following scores:

ACT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995 -- a composite score of 21, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 21, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 37. [Please note that you must have taken and met passing scores for the ACT **Mathematics** and **English Plus Reading** tests. At one time, the English Plus Reading test was not offered.]

ACT Taken After April 1, 1995 -- a composite score of 24, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 22, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 46.

Please note that the ACT was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.